



31 August 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer holiday. We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 and 12 students to their first term at The Victory Academy as well as welcoming back our existing students.

This summer has been particularly busy for The Victory Academy staff. A large number of our Year 7 students enjoyed our summer school in the first week of the holidays. We have also had some changes to the building with a new specialist Science room being created as well as improvements to the Student Services and Special Educational Needs area of the Academy.

A particular highlight was seeing the Year 11 and Year 13 students when they came into the Academy to collect their exam results. We are extremely proud of them all. The level of resilience and determination demonstrated throughout the COVID-19 disruption has been phenomenal.

In term 1 we welcome some **new staff** to The Victory team:

Ms M Steeples – Associate Leader of English

Mr M Ray – Second in Charge of Science

Ms A Hancock – Teacher of English

Mr S Tate – Teacher of English

Ms P Marcis – Teacher of English

Ms ZAgui – Teacher of Maths

Mr S Adriano – Teacher of Maths

Ms MAlatise– Teacher of MFL

Mr C Edwards – Teacher of PE

Mr O Doyle – Teacher of PE and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

Mr M Willicombe – Teacher of History

Ms E Anderson – Teacher of History

Mr J Winslade – Teacher of History

Ms J Coma Planella – Teacher of Art



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



ASPIRE, ENDEAVOUR, ACHIEVE

www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk

Director of Education (Chatham): Ms M Gage BA (Hons) NPQH
Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH NLE

Magpie Hall Road, Chatham,
Kent, ME4 5JB

T: 03333 602140
E: office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk

The Victory Academy is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755



Ms M Masilamany – Teacher of Geography

Ms T Moreira Duarte Lopes – Learning Support Assistant

Ms S Anjum – Learning Support Assistant

Mr N McKee – Behaviour Support Assistant

Mrs S McKee – Student Services Advisor & Learning Support Assistant

Pre-start of term COVID testing

Those wishing for their child to be tested in school will have already filled in the online request form. Only students whose parents and carers have consented to testing should come into school between 31st August and 3rd September (separate communication will further advise those who have consented).

If your child is not coming in to school for testing, to support us in efficient running of the Academy, we ask that all students carry out 2 tests in the week before returning to school. Should you need another test kit, please contact the school office.

Continued Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)

Irrespective of whether or not students take part in the above testing, all students should continue to complete twice-weekly Lateral Flow Testing at home in September, and report results on the Government's results website.

Students will be offered more test kits for home testing during the week commencing 6th September.

We have been told by the Department for Education that this twice-weekly home testing will need to continue until the end of September. Further guidance is due from the Government on their expectations for after September and these will be sent out as soon as this information becomes available.

In case of symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result

You should not send your child to school in September if they display any of the original symptoms or if they test positive. **READ MORE:** [DfE guidance for households with possible or confirmed Covid-19](#) Please inform the school of any absence and the reason.

Remote learning

If any student is required to self-isolate, we will continue with remote learning so that they do not miss out on their education.



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



ASPIRE, ENDEAVOUR, ACHIEVE

www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk

Director of Education (Chatham): Ms M Gage BA (Hons) NPQH
Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH NLE

Magpie Hall Road, Chatham,
Kent, ME4 5JB

T: 03333 602140
E: office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk

The Victory Academy is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755



Return to normal

Whilst COVID-19 is still very much with us, we will be returning to some sense of ‘normality’ from September.

Face coverings - Face coverings are no longer advised for students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. However, face coverings are still recommended on public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

Track & Trace – Schools are no longer required to track and trace. All positive cases should be reported to the NHS via their app. Please also let us know if your child tests positive.

Self-isolation - Close contacts of a positive case will no longer need to self-isolate. They can continue to come to school but may be recommended to take a PCR test by NHS Test & Trace. If they are, they are not expected to self-isolate pending the result of any test. Students will only now be expected to self-isolate following a positive test result.

Other – We will return to a 5-lesson day and intend to run clubs and extra-curricular activities again. Lunch and break will no longer be staggered. We will keep our classrooms and corridors well ventilated and will encourage all students to wash their hands regularly with soap and water or to use hand sanitiser.

The return to school – reminders

Years 7 and 12 start back to school on **Monday 6th September**. All students should be in the Academy by 8.35am for an 8.40am start. On 6th September, Year 7 will be provided with a lunch but they are also welcome to bring a packed lunch if they would prefer to.

Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 start back to school on **Tuesday 7th September**. Students should arrive at the following times:

- 8.35am – years 7, 10, 11 and all 6th Form.
- 9.15am – years 8 and 9.

We will be spending time on the first days of term reintroducing routines and expectations, and supporting all of our students to ensure they are ready to learn.

From September, all students will be entering at the start of the day via the **Main Gate**. Students should then follow the student path and enter the Courtyard via the gate between A and B Block. Students will **not** be entering via Reception or The Galley. The Main Gate will open at 8.10am for all students.

Breakfast Club will be available from 8am. Students should enter via the Main Gate and go into The Galley via the community entrance.



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



ASPIRE, ENDEAVOUR, ACHIEVE

www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk

Director of Education (Chatham): Ms M Gage BA (Hons) NPQH
Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH NLE

Magpie Hall Road, Chatham,
Kent, ME4 5JB

T: 03333 602140
E: office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk

The Victory Academy is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755



As we prepare for the return to the Academy in September, please take this opportunity to revisit our **uniform expectations**. Our uniform requirements can be found on our web site here: [Uniform & Equipment - The Victory Academy](#). Uniform expectations of Sixth Form students can be found here: <https://www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk/sixth-form/dress-code/>

We want our students to take pride in their uniform and to accept that smart appearance is part of our core expectations for all members of our Academy community. Please ensure that your child returns with the full, correct uniform and equipment on their first day in September. For students with incorrect uniform, staff will issue a letter and a uniform pass, which allows 2 days for the issue to be remedied. After this time, we will contact you and students will be asked to return home from the gate until the uniform issue is addressed. Please note that this will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

We are looking forward to working with you to support your child to achieve their best self.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Smith
Principal



**Artsmark
Platinum Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



ASPIRE, ENDEAVOUR, ACHIEVE

www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk

Director of Education (Chatham): Ms M Gage BA (Hons) NPQH
Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH NLE

Magpie Hall Road, Chatham,
Kent, ME4 5JB

T: 03333 602140
E: office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk

The Victory Academy is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755